

PUBLIC HEARING

EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
 RESTORE NY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE GRANT
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2007; 7:00 P.M.
 NEW WINDSOR TOWN HALL
 NEW WINDSOR, NEW YORK

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Green, Councilwoman Mullarkey,
 Councilwoman Biasotti

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Comptroller Finnegan, Deputy Police Chief
 Hovey, Highway Superintendent Fayó, Town
 Attorney Blythe

ABSENT: Councilwoman Weyant

Supervisor Green called to order a Public Hearing regarding the Empire State Development Corporation Restore NY Communities Initiative Grant. He said this was the second time this grant had been applied for.

The Town Clerk presented proof of publication as required by law.

Supervisor Green asked if anyone had any questions about the grant program.

Diane Newlander: "I would just like to say exactly what I did last year, that this was required in the lease. My own feeling is this is public money, it is not appropriate to be applying for a grant to give to a private corporation, in my mind it is just another example of corporate, I don't want to say greed, but I do feel it is really inappropriate."

Supervisor Green, "Thank you, you obviously haven't read the criteria for the grant. Most of the grants are applied for by private corporations sponsored by local municipalities."

Diane Newlander, "I have read it and I have read the intent as well and I feel it is inappropriate."

Sandra Kissam, "Not too many years ago, the lands that were taken over by First Columbia were lands that belonged to the federal government. Former Supervisor Meyers had those lands privatized and transferred under a 99 year lease to First Columbia, which is a company out of Albany, and in doing so he received considerable assistance from Congresswoman Sue Kelly who managed to jump over a number of actions which are normal in those situations - the land first has to be considered for such things as homeless housing and a number of other issues and she managed to expedite the process. My recollection of the condition of the privatization was that First Columbia would pay some 99 million dollars in stages, I don't know how much they put down when they first took over the property. The point is that privatization, the intent of privatization, is to remove from public responsibility the cost of whatever project is underway. Now these lands were obviously used for public reasons until First Columbia obtained its 99 year lease and so my concern is that since privatization essentially shifts the expenses to the private sector in return for them being able to realize a private profit, why under those circumstances do you want to once again involve public funds? It seems counterproductive for the public and it seems contradictory in terms of what the reasons for privatization are. So I wanted to put that into context and I feel that there is no rationale here unless the revenues from the development of this project will also be shared with the Town of New Windsor. Thank you."

Supervisor Green, "That obviously is the case. Thank you. Anyone else?"

Hearing no one else wishing to speak, Supervisor Green entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

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Motion by Councilwoman Mullarkey, seconded by Councilwoman Biasotti that the Town Board of the Town of New Windsor close the Public Hearing in the matter of the Empire State Development Corporation Restore NY Communities Initiative, in the Town of New Windsor, County of Orange, New York pursuant to Article 12 of the Town Law at 7:15 P.M.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried: 3-0

Adopt Resolution: Town Board Of The Town Of New Windsor Certifying Local Legislative Support For “Round 2, Restore NY Communities Initiative” Grant Application Of First Columbia International Group As Sponsored By Town Of New Windsor.

Motion by Councilwoman Mullarkey, seconded by Councilwoman Biasotti that the Town Board of the Town of New Windsor adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Windsor (Town Board) was held on August 9, 2007, which advertised for and called a Public Hearing for the Empire State Development Corporation “Round 2, Restore New York Communities Initiative” as required by law; and

WHEREAS, Empire State Development Corporation through the “Round 2, Restore New York Communities Initiative” program has invited Requests for Funding Proposals for certain projects; and

WHEREAS, Town Board wishes to sponsor the application of First Columbia International Group (First Columbia) to make said application for said funding; and

WHEREAS, the “Round 2, Restore New York Communities Initiative” projects eligible for funding include the demolition and asbestos abatement of abandoned or obsolete structures; and

WHEREAS, Town of New Windsor is the owner of certain properties within Town of New Windsor consisting of the former Stewart Army Sub-post (STAS); and

WHEREAS, the former STAS is located within the Newburgh/Stewart Empire Zone; and

WHEREAS, there exists on these lands fifty (50) abandoned and obsolete buildings which detract from the value of the town owned lands; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned lands and buildings are the subject of a long term agreement between Town of New Windsor and First Columbia and that First Columbia in conjunction with and in cooperation with Town of New Windsor has legal control of the site; and

WHEREAS, all requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) were complied with on August 3, 2003, upon the completion of New York International Plaza’s Final Environmental Impact Statement; and

WHEREAS, Town of New Windsor now wishes to sponsor the application of First Columbia for the demolition and removal of abandoned and obsolete structures at the STAS site; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing having been held on September 5, 2007 to hear all interested persons in regard to the Empire State Development Corporation “Round 2, Restore New York Communities Initiative”; and

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- WHEREAS**, the project is consistent with the existing local and regional revitalization plan; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed financing is appropriate for the specific facility or project as the demolition of the abandoned and obsolete structures will enhance the value of the site; and
- WHEREAS**, the project facilitates effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources; and
- WHEREAS**, the project develops and enhances infrastructure and/or other facilities in a manner that will attract, create, and sustain employment opportunities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of New Windsor that:

- (1) The Town Board hereby sponsors the application of First Columbia to Empire State Development Corporation “Round 2, Restore New York Communities Initiative” for funding of demolition and asbestos abatement of abandoned and obsolete buildings at STAS; and
- (2) That the Town Board hereby certifies that the project has the full legislative support of the Town of New Windsor.

Roll Call: All Ayes *Motion Carried: 3-0*

Respectfully submitted,

DEBORAH GREEN
TOWN CLERK

/clc